

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF INDIE SMASH BURSARY AWARDED TO KATIE SFETKIDIS**

The SMASH bursary is Awarded annually to one recipient per year from 2018 to 2022.

Designed in honour of TNA founding board members Simon Abrahams (Chair) and Alice Nash (Deputy Chair), this bursary encourages and enables a breakthrough independent artist or producer to continue adding their voice to the Australian performing arts sector. TNA acknowledges that these vital contributions are often a result of many unpaid hours engaging with the broader performing arts sector.

The selection panel wanted to commend the following applicants, and to note their amazing commitment to the performing arts: Joshua Allen, Samsara Dunston, Adam Fawcett, Romi Kupfer, Tessa Leong, Reagan Maiquez, Abbie Madden, Jessica Moody, Megan Riedl, Rhen Soggee, and Tessa Waters.

We are thrilled to announce that the Inaugural SMASH bursary is being awarded to Katie Sfetkidis.

Katie Sfetkidis is a lighting designer and co-artistic director of Little Ones Theatre. As an artist, she has shown a great commitment to the Independent theatre and live art sector working with many local theatre companies including; Little Ones Theatre, She Said, Fraught Outfit, Sisters Grimm, Aphids and Punctum, amongst others.

As you all may be aware, Katie is also running for Lord Mayor of Melbourne, and as is aiming to instigate dialogue over issues of accessibility, affordability, diversity, gentrification and the role of art in the community. As the online neos kosmos newsforum said, “the by-election for Lord Mayor of Melbourne just took an artistic – and Greek – turn.”

Theatre Network Australia is thrilled to honour and support someone who is committed to fostering the careers of young women and being an advocate for women within a male dominated part of the sector – especially the lighting design sector. It is timely to focus on gender equity at the moment in the performing arts – because if we have a more equal culture in our workplaces, it is harder for sexual harassment and bullying to thrive.

Katie has shared her skills and knowledge with a number of younger artists through a series of mentorship and internship programs, often for free.

We are pleased to award this inaugural SMASH bursary to Katie.